

# County of San Diego

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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### SAFETY ACTION COMMITTEE – STUDY RESULTS – SILVER STATE HELICOPTER OPERATIONS

A Safety Action Committee (SAC) was appointed by the Director of Airports for the purposes of evaluating Silver State Helicopter Flight Training Operations taking place at Gillespie Field and parking at San Diego Aircraft, Inc. – Wayne Breise leasehold. The scope of the committee's responsibilities was to evaluate in accordance with FAA Advisory Circulars / Regulations and Caltrans Airport 5010 criteria, the safety of helicopter flight operations and airport facility compatibility.

Members of the committee are as follows:

Willie Vasquez – Chairman  
Jeremy Keating – Member  
Eric Nelson – Member

Specific areas of review and findings are identified below:

➔ Parking

The parking of Silver State Helicopters at San Diego Aircraft does not require an FAA 7480 and related airspace study because these are helicopter parking spaces only.

- ➔ The circumference of the helicopter parking spaces are greater than required and the distance between parking spaces are within standard of AC 150/5390-2A Heliport Design. However, the color and width of the lines does not conform with the standard and needs to be re-painted from white to yellow and 12 inches in width.
- ➔ The set backs of helicopter parking spaces to buildings and other structures was found to be within standards of AC 150/5390-2A Heliport Design.

- Although no standard for distance between helicopters and parked fixed wing aircraft could be found, it is recommend that fixed wing aircraft be moved further from the effects of Helicopter rotor wash.
- It is recommended that a 1 foot red border with 6" white lettering stating "CAUTION HELICOPTER OPERATIONS AREA" be painted around the perimeter for added visibility and signage to be added on adjacent hangars.
- Routes  
The helicopter taxi routes are found to be within standard as identified in AC 150/5390-2A.
- Silver State Helicopters is following all ATC procedures and regulations.

In conclusion, after day and night observation, our committee has determined that Silver State Helicopters is conducting safe, standard, and professional helicopter operations at Gillespie Field.

Submitted by:



Eric Nelson  
Airport Engineer  
Member



Jeremy Keating  
Operations Coordinator  
Member



Willie Vasquez  
Acting-Airport Manager  
Committee Chairman